

Dry Lakes Water Quality Update Summer 2006 Sampling Event



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The Dry Lakes monitoring project began in April 2005 as a result of high nitrate concentrations detected in ground water at dairy wells south of Lake Lowell near Nampa, Idaho. Seven wells were sampled in the spring of 2005 with a follow-up sampling of ten wells in the summer of 2006. Well logs indicate static water levels range from approximately 80-250 feet below ground level. Typically, well logs show top soil overlying deep basalts. Domestic wells are generally completed open hole in the basalt aquifer.

In July 2006, six wells exceeded the EPA drinking water standard of 10 mg/L for nitrate; the maximum nitrate concentration in a well was 32.0 mg/L (see table below). Fecal coliform was not detected in any wells during sampling events in 2005 and 2006.

Nitrate concentration distribution and statistics in all wells sampled, July 2006.

Concentration Range (mg/L)	July 2006 # wells (% wells)
0.0 to 5.0	3 (30%)
5.0 to 10.0	1 (10%)
> 10.0	6 (60%)
Total	10 (100%)

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Nitrate Concentration Statistics July 2006	
Mean	11.2 mg/L
Median	12.0 mg/L
Maximum	32.0 mg/L



